

**Rhode Island Housing and Conservation Trust Fund Commission**

August 23, 2004

Rhode Island Foundation

Meeting Minutes

Commission elected the following officers:

Chair: Scott Wolf

Vice Chair: Ray Neirinckx

Secretary: Kathleen Wainwright

Discussion of resource manual prepared by Yana

Contribution of land trust mechanism:

First job-what is a community land trust?

What is structure?

What other models exist nationwide?

Same questions to be answered for conservation land trusts

Look at feasibility of establishing community land trusts that is more focused on acquisition for affordable housing.

Challenge to articulate difference between “community” land trusts and conservation land trusts

How does Rhode Island want to establish a vision for Rhode Island given other models around the country?

What is vision for community land trust/conservation land trusts and what is the role of the trust fund?

Suggestion from Sheila that we **form 2 subcommittees to work with presenters**, after presentations and research come back with options for organization structures and purpose.

After that enter into financing discussion.

More work left on second sub-committee, how would you combine a housing trust fund with existing programs and funding?

Steve: suggested we look at where gaps are in funding for practitioners

Discussion of local conservation land trusts’ abilities versus requirements for community land trusts.

What about including RIDEM and other stakeholders?  
DEM: should we make them a non-voting member?

**Motion: Include DEM as a non-voting member**

**Made by: Joe Garlicke**

**Seconded by: Steve Ostiguy**

Should we get a sense of what DEM's and other agency positions and research, **Brenda offered to look through her notes on the original act for information.**

Note that most of the structure that are in place now were not present in 1990.

Steve: Lack of legislation/law on books regarding community land trust ownership-legislative recommendations with likely be forthcoming from this commission.

Doing presentations as early as possible

**Next Meeting: Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 2:30-4:30**

Meeting minutes posted on Sec. of State website-ready late Sept./early Oct.

Is GrowSmart staffing this? Yes. **Create a list of potential stakeholders, interested individuals-send them agenda in advance. Grow Smart will use their email newsletter to accomplish this.**

How much should we keep legislature in the loop?

key contacts:

Pres. of Senate

Speaker of House

Chairs of committees who sponsored the legislation

Have segment on agenda for public comments

Funding for misc. expenses

**Growsmart is looking into RIFoundation**

Legislative grant from Kennedy.